


**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

By this Preliminary Amendment, the scope of original claim 1 has been broadened, claim 13 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for a term in the claim, and new claims 28 to 30 have been added.

Early action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By:   
Michael J. Keenan  
Reg. No. 32,106

MJK:ljb  
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100